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TAGS: [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [PREL](#) [MEDIA](#) [REACTION](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION US IMMIGRATION POLICY BLOW TO
EGYPT TORTURE LEGITIMIZATION CHAVEZ AND MERCOSUR US-
URUGUAYAN FTA CODEL SHELBY CHINA ARGENTINE JUDICIAL
SECURITY 04/25/06

1. SUMMARY STATEMENT

Leading international stories today include terrorist bombs hitting the Egyptian resort of Dahab killing at least 23 people and wounding more than 60; US President George W. Bush's trip to California and defense of his proposal to grant a temporary work permit to immigrants; the possible causes of the blow to Egypt; the legitimization of barbarianism in the world; Argentine President Kirchner and Brazilian President Lula allegedly attempting to limit Venezuelan President Chavez's influence in Latin America; Uruguayan President Vazquez' trip to the US and Mexico to obtain free trade deals; US senators' meeting with Argentine VP Daniel Scioli and Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana; and Argentina's judicial security.

Conservative "La Prensa," left-of-center "Pagina 12," liberal, English-language "Buenos Aires Herald," business-financial "El Cronista," and populist "Cronica" report the visit of Codel Shelby, led by Senator Richard Shelby.

2. OPINION PIECES AND KEY STORIES

- "Bush: 'Deporting undocumented (immigrants) is not a realistic solution'"

Ana Baron, Washington-based correspondent for leading "Clarín," writes (04/25) "Less than six months away from legislative elections, with an ongoing election campaign, George W. Bush traveled to California during the weekend..., where he gave a very conciliatory speech 'Deporting twelve million immigrants is not a realistic solution. It is not going to work.'"

"With respect to the US Congress, which does not come to terms on what to do with the problem posed by illegal immigrants, Bush defended his project to grant a temporary work permit to foreign workers. According to him, this permit will prevent immigrants from having to risk their lives by illegally crossing the border."

- "Hitting the economy"

Claudio Mario Aliscioni, columnist of leading "Clarín," writes (04/25) "A current interpretation of terrorism will insist on linking bombings in Egypt to

Al Qaeda. But it is equally important to understand the event as a result of Egypt's domestic policy.

"Islamic militants' broad official repression of the '90s has created a stampede of radicalized youth, whose goal is to hit the Egyptian government, which they see as an ally of the US and Israel. This is why they attacked tourism, which is the vital chord of the economy of the country."

- "The problem of legitimizing barbarianism as a resource"

Oscar Raul Cardoso, international analyst of leading "Clarín," opines (04/25) "... Barbarianism appears legitimized as a resource..."

"There is a clear anti-civilization impulse in this dialectic process. Since the September 11 attacks, we have learned to 'digest' an obscure global war because the other side is unidentifiable most of the time. After the last two decades deemed to establish an era of unwaivable respect for human rights, the new era displays detainees without a right to trial or defense and democratic governments legitimizing torture as an inescapable phase.

"... Now, one should wonder whether this sort of negative dialectic process will not end up working in favor of several forms of social control, whether it is the one exercised by George W. Bush or that dreamt of by Osama bin Laden."

- "Kirchner and Lula, to reinvent Mercosur"

Luis Esnal, on special assignment in Sao Paulo for daily-of-record "La Nacion," writes (04/25) "President Nestor Kirchner will arrive today in Brazil to meet with Lula... amid the resurgence of the conflict over the pulp mills whose impact on Mercosur is a topic of concern for the two largest partners of the bloc.

"... The main topic of discussion in the bilateral meeting between Lula and Kirchner is the deterioration of Mercosur, with Uruguay threatening to get out of the bloc and Paraguay saying that its largest partners do not help the smaller ones. Another topic of discussion will be Montevideo's decision to speed up an FTA with the US.

"... For his part, Chavez will bring his request for support to obtain a chair as a non permanent member at the UN Security Council, which Argentina will leave this year.

"According to an Argentine diplomat, 'US pressure both in Argentina and Brazil, to prevent Chavez from having a chair at the UN Security Council is very strong. However, with all the business initiatives Chavez is proposing to fund, no one is willing to say no to him.'

"As long as the value of a barrel of oil remains high, Chavez's progress in the region will continue increasing, and this is what has started to disturb Brazil and Argentina."

- "Uruguay will speed up an FTA with the US"

Luis Esnal, on special assignment in Montevideo for daily-of-record "La Nacion," writes (04/25) "President Tabare Vazquez conveyed to his governmental staff the importance of his trip to the US and Mexico, which is intended to reach free trade deals that will enable Uruguay to increase its exports outside of Mercosur.

"According to governmental sources, it will also be another step to explore similar possibilities in another region, like China and India."

- "US senators meet with Taiana and Scioli"

Conservative "La Prensa" reports (04/25) "Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana received a delegation of US senators... to discuss money laundering control and local legislation to fight terrorism financing."

"US senators 'emphasized the broad cooperation between Argentina and the US in this field.' Foreign Minister Taiana 'reaffirmed Argentina's strong commitment to eradicating these scourges through bilateral, regional and multilateral actions.'"

- "The example set by the Chinese president"

Andres Oppenheimer, contributor to daily-of-record "La Nacion," writes (04/25) "When Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the US last week, his first stop was not the White House, but the headquarters of Microsoft and Boeing in Seattle. Latin American presidents would do well to take note of this small detail."

"While China and its Asian neighbors are openly courting foreign corporations and visiting US businessmen, many Latin American presidents either ignore multinational companies or insult them to get the applause of the audience."

13. EDITORIALS

- "The country's image and investment"

An editorial in leading "Clarín" reads (04/25) "During an interview, Finnish Foreign Trade Minister Paula Lehtomäki warned of the negative impact of a negative investment climate."

"... In order to capture long-term investment, the country needs to generate confidence that politics will not interfere in the development of business and

that judicial security will be guaranteed.

"For this purpose, it is necessary to implement cautious public policies and avoid aggressive political gestures that could create mistrust among investors."

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GUTIERREZ